GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:8052
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000
SEMINAR ON GOOD GOVERNANCE
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the views expressed by participants in seminar organised in the memory of Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant held in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the main views expressing by the participants;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon;

(d) the steps are being taken by the Government to provide good governance to the country;

(e) whether the recommendations made by the welfare committees have not been implemented; and

(f) if so, the details of recommendations and steps taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

(SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e) & (f) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.8052 FOR ANSWER ON 17 MAY, 2000.

The Union Minister of Urban Development in a function organised by the Indian Coucil of Social Science Research,New Delhi on 25 March 2000 in the memory of Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant, spoke inter alia, about challenges of providing good governance. He stated that there were several factors responsible for the overall poor performance of the institutions of governance including inefficiency, corruption and malpractices. He also talked about the lack of commitment, casualness, and the absence of inspiring ideology and work culture on the part of the civil servants.

2. Government of India has taken measures to improve the quality of governance from time to time. Some of the measures taken recently are as follows.

3. The Government has taken measures to bring greater transparency and accountability in its functioning. Thus several government organisations with considerable public interface have introduced Citizens` Charters indicating broadly the quality of service, the public would be entitled to, within a specified time frame. Information and Facilitation Counters have been set up by 45 Ministries/Departments/Central Government Organisations to provide information on procedures and the schemes of the concerned organisation as well as to access information pertaining to the status of individual cases.

4. The Annual Action Plan prepared by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions envisages three-pronged strategy for containment of corruption in public life. It was initially launched in 1985-86 and is being continued on an annual basis. The broad features of the Action Plan are as follows:

1) Preventive Vigilance;
ii) Surveillance and detection; and
iii) Deterrent punitive action.

Under these three major areas, the Action Plan seeks to cover as many aspects of the vigilance set-up as possible. The Government has been giving due importance and priority to the areas of Preventive Vigilance, with a view to minimising the areas of discretion - especially at lower levels. The Government has also taken several steps in the recent past to strengthen the institution of Central

Vigilance Commission and that of the Chief Vigilance Officers, so that the vigilance machinery could be made more effective. Some of the important steps taken recently to combat corruption are following:

i) The Central Vigilance Commission has been vested powers vide para 3(v) of the Department of Personnel and Training Resolution No.371/20/99-AVD.IIIdated 4th April,1999 to exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration. The Commisssion has issued several instructions to reduce the scope of corruption, such as, creating a culture of honesty, greater transparency in administration,electronics clearance system,computerization of banks, sensitising the public etc.The Central Vigilance Commisssion has also issued Special Chapters on vigilance management in public sector banks and public sector undertakings.

ii) The Central Vigilance Commission Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on20.12.1999 to confer statutory status upon the Central Vigilance Commission and to incorporate the other directions of the Supreme Court in Vineet Narain vs Union of India.

iii)Some of the major steps taken to insulate the CBI from extraneous influences and to improve its funtioning are:

- Director,CBI has been given a minimum tenure of 2 years.

- A CBI Selection Board has been constitutedto make recommendations for the appointment of Director, C B Iand for reduction/extension in tenure/pre-mature repatriation of officers of rank of SP and above in CBI.

- 183 posts,including technical posts, have been sanctioned for augmenting the Special Crime Division and Economic Offences Wing of the CBI.

5. The Government has also taken up simplification of laws, rules and procedures to improve the efficiency of organisations. Towards this end, over 40 Departments had undertaken, through expert Task Forces or by internal exercises, a detailed review of laws, regulations and procedures administered by them. The Government had, in addition, set up a Commission on Review of Administrative Laws on 8 May, 1998 to make recommendations for repeal/amendment of laws, regulations, procedures, legislative processes etc. The Commission submitted its report on30 September, 1998. The important recommendations of the Commission include recommendation for repeal of almost 50% of Central Laws (1382 out of 2500 Laws), expeditious amendments to a critical list of 109 identified Acts, documentation of administrative laws (rules, regulations, executive instructions) by all the Ministries/Departments, harmonisation of statutes and laws with reference to the perspective of domestic and foreign investors, trade and industry, consumers, exporters and importers, and development of a viable alternative disputes resolution machinery. The Government had constituted a Standing Committee under the Chairmanshipof Secretary (Personnel) for monitoring the follow-up action on implementation of the recommendations contained in the report. Most of the Ministries/Departments have initiated action to bring about suitable amendments/modifications in and repeal of the Acts and Laws being administered by them with a view to improve service delivery and transparency in the functioning of Government.

6 . The recommendations made by various reform Committees and Commissions set up by the Governmentare given due consideration. Action is taken to implement those recommendations which are accepted by the Government.